

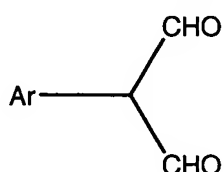
## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A germicidal composition comprising:

a diluent; and

a germicidal compound having the formula:



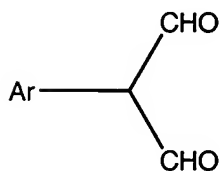
wherein Ar is an aryl group selected from the group consisting of phenyl, 4-pyrimidinyl, and 2-(2-nitro-3-formyl-phenyl).

2. The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition comprises a germicidally effective amount of the compound.
3. The composition of claim 1, further comprising:  
  
a buffer;  
  
a chelating agent;  
  
a corrosion inhibitor; and  
  
a surfactant.
4. The composition of claim 3, further comprising:  
  
a fragrance; and

a coloring agent.

5. A method comprising killing bacteria by contacting the bacteria with the composition of claim 1.
6. A method comprising disinfecting a surface by contacting the surface with the composition of claim 1 for a period of time and at a temperature effective to disinfect the surface.
7. The composition of claim 1, wherein Ar is phenyl.
8. The composition of claim 7, wherein the germicidally effective amount of the compound is effective to kill at least  $1 \times 10^6$  *Mycobacterium terrae* bacteria in contact with the composition in less than one hour with a bacteria suspension test at a temperature of 20°C.
9. A method comprising disinfecting a surface by contacting the surface with the composition of claim 8 for a period of time and at a temperature effective to disinfect the surface.
10. The composition of claim 7, further comprising an enhancer to enhance a germicidal efficacy of the germicidal compound, the enhancer selected from the group consisting of isophthalaldehyde and a combination of isophthalaldehyde and terephthalaldehyde.
11. The composition of claim 1, wherein Ar is 4-pyrimidinyl.
12. A method comprising disinfecting a surface by contacting the surface with the composition of claim 11 for a period of time and at a temperature effective to disinfect the surface.

13. The composition of claim 11, wherein the germicidally effective amount of the compound is effective to kill at least  $1 \times 10^4$  *Mycobacterium terrae* bacteria in contact with the composition in less than five minutes with a bacteria suspension test at a temperature of 20°C.
14. The composition of claim 1, wherein Ar is 2-(2-nitro-3-formyl-phenyl).
15. A method comprising disinfecting a surface by contacting the surface with the composition of claim 14 for a period of time and at a temperature effective to disinfect the surface.
16. The composition of claim 14, wherein the germicidally effective amount of the compound is effective to kill at least  $1 \times 10^4$  *Mycobacterium terrae* bacteria in contact with the composition in less than five minutes with a bacteria suspension test at a temperature of 20°C.
17. A method comprising killing bacteria by contacting the bacteria with a compound having the formula:



wherein Ar is phenyl, 4-pyrimidinyl, or 2-(2-nitro-3-formyl-phenyl).

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising disinfecting a surface by contacting the surface with a composition including the compound of claim 13 for a period of time and at a temperature effective to disinfect the surface.
19. A germicidal composition comprising:
- a diluent;

phenyl-propanedial; and

isophthalaldehyde.

20. The composition of claim 19, wherein the isophthalaldehyde is an enhancer for the germicidal efficacy of the phenyl-propanedial.
21. A method comprising killing bacteria by contacting the bacteria with the composition of claim 19.
22. The composition of claim 19, further comprising terephthalaldehyde.
23. The composition of claim 22, wherein the isophthalaldehyde and the terephthalaldehyde are an enhancer for the germicidal efficacy of the phenyl-propanedial.
24. A method comprising disinfecting a surface by contacting the surface with the composition of claim 23.